

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.

 VOL. X.

November 9, 1849.

 No. 1.

G. B. AIRY, Esq., President, in the Chair.

John Charles Dennis, Esq., 122 Bishopsgate Street, was balloted for, and duly elected a Fellow of the Society.

Vol. IX. of the *Monthly Notices* has been published during the Vacation. Its price is fixed by the Council at 2s. 6d. to fellows, and 5s. to the public. A copy is given to the purchasers of the corresponding quarto volume, which is now in the press.

The *Berliner Astronomisches Jahrbuch* for 1852 contains approximate Ephemerides of *Astræa*, *Hebe*, *Iris*, *Flora*, *Metis*, *Hygeia*, and *Neptune*, for 1850, for every ten days, and an exact Ephemeris for every day during the month of opposition. It is not, therefore, the intention of the Editor to print any similar Ephemerides after the present *Notice*, unless directed by the Council, or without some special grounds.

The Smithsonian Institution have published in a separate form "Appendix I. to Volume II. of the *Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge*, an Ephemeris of *Neptune* for the date of the Lalande Observations of May 8th and 10th, 1791; and for the oppositions of 1846, 7, 8, and 9, computed for the Smithsonian Institution by Sears C. Walker, Esq." Copies have been presented with great liberality to most of the Astronomers of Great Britain and the Continent. There is still a spare copy or two for distribution, which will be given, on application, to any fellow who proposes to make use of it.

There is one copy of the "*Circular in Relation to the Astronomical Expedition to Chile*" still left for distribution. The object of this expedition is to determine the parallax of the sun, by corresponding observations of *Venus* and *Mars* at places which are distant from each other. As the observations for this purpose are of the most delicate kind, it is not desirable that they should be attempted with inferior instruments.*

* Attention is again called to the absolute necessity of measuring the diameter of the planet whenever observations are made to correspond with those of Lieut. Gilliss. See the present *Notice* for *Measures of the Diameter of Venus*.

Part of a Memoir by the President was read, giving a history of the foundation of the Cape Observatory. Many years ago, on the death of Mr. Fallowes, his papers were forwarded to the Lords of the Admiralty, who made some ineffectual attempts to have them examined and published, if expedient. It is needless to allude here to the various difficulties which presented themselves; it will be sufficient to state, that Mr. Airy recently took charge of these manuscripts, and is now arranging and preparing them for press. Their lordships, with their accustomed liberality, have agreed to Mr. Airy's recommendation, viz. that Mr. Fallowes' observations should be published in the *Memoirs* of the Royal Astronomical Society, and at the expense of the Admiralty. Mr. Airy has availed himself of his position as custodier of the papers of the late Board of Longitude (which are now stored at the Royal Observatory) to furnish an exact history of this important institution.

As only a portion of this Paper was read, no further mention will be made of it in the present *Notice*. The work will probably be published in the quarto Volume for 1850, and will doubtless prove an important addition to those gratuitous contributions with which the Astronomer Royal has frequently enriched our science, while he has preserved the labours of astronomers deceased from neglect or even total oblivion.

METIS.

Observations.

HAMBURG.	Meridian Circle.			(M. C. Rümker.)
1849.	Hamb. M.T.	R.A.	Dec.	
	h m s	° ' "	° ' "	
Aug. 20	12 25 22.0	335 31 44.8	-20 21 52.8	
25	12 0 52.9	334 19 9.0	20 51 4.5	
30	11 36 21.5	333 6 0.0	21 16 45.2	
Sep. 4	11 58.7	331 54 59.4	38 20.7	
5	11 7 7.8	41 12.4	42 8.4	
7	10 57 28.6	331 14 16.4	49 7.0	
9	47 52.5	330 48 8.0	21 55 15.1	
13	28 44.7	329 56 57.5	22 4 55.6	
15	19 32.3	329 36 45.0	8 46.3	
19	10 1 3.9	328 55 26.1	13 23.1	
20	9 56 30.7	46 6.7	14 5.9	
21	51 39.4	37 12.6	14 27.0	
23	43 1.5	20 38.7	14 35.6	
24	38 35.2	13 1.8	14 34.7	
25	34 10.7	328 5 51.5	14 7.2	
26	29 47.5	327 59 1.4	13 23.0	
27	25 26.4	52 43.1	12 43.7	
Oct. 1	9 8 20.3	327 32 1.3	-22 7 25.6	